



Connecticut Center for Advanced Technology, Inc.

222 Pitkin Street – Suite 101
East Hartford, CT 06108
Phone (860) 291-8832
Fax (860) 291-8874

Testimony of Elliot A. Ginsberg

Connecticut Center for Advanced Technology, Inc.

before

Commerce Committee

March 8, 2011

Regarding

Raised House Bill 6525

An Act Concerning the Continuance of the majority Leaders' Job Growth

Roundtable

Senator LeBeau, Representative Berger, members of the Committee, my name is Elliot Ginsberg and I am CEO of the Connecticut Center for Advanced Technology (CCAT). I am here today to speak on Raised House Bill 6525, which contains changes to the Majority Leaders' Job Growth legislation that was passed last year after significant discussion and effort by the majority leaders of both chambers.

As a member of the Roundtable discussion that created the blueprint for this legislation, I would like to point out that the bill before you has some changes that reflect the ongoing effort to improve its language and intent. Specifically, there are changes to a number of the current sections, which range from clarification of definitions in lines 17 and 18, to changes that reflect a different threshold regarding credits for angel investment in line 611, to requirements in lines 553- 557 which speak to the mandatory requirement of regulation drafting.



Connecticut Center for Advanced Technology, Inc.

222 Pitkin Street – Suite 101
East Hartford, CT 06108
Phone (860) 291-8832
Fax (860) 291-8874

In addition, there are a number of new sections and changes that reflect on the definition of alternative energy vehicles and the use of Connecticut highways. Specifically, the change in line 723 to clarify the utilization of fuel cell vehicles is very important, as our state continues to promote its national prominence in this technology.

Finally new legislation has been inserted in lines 732 – 740 that would transfer the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Office from its current location back to CCAT, where it was resurrected some six to seven years ago. At that time, the administrative funding for this program was through the Office of Workforce Competitiveness to CCAT, with resources for specific programs through the DECD. These resources were leveraged with federal dollars that were available through CCAT to increase the program's capacity.

Approximately three years ago, the program (with its state funding) was transferred to CII. And during these three years, it is my understanding that the underlying state funding for administrative functions were reduced or eliminated and replaced by funding derived from the generation of CII assets.

As a result of discussions that began last session, and in light of the budget difficulties that the State is facing, the question was raised whether the possibility still existed of leveraging federal funds through CCAT to pay for the administrative functions of the SBIR program. The answer to that question is yes; however, it would be at a reduced amount from that which is currently being subsidized by CII, and with possibly some rearranging of deliverables and expectations of the current program. The SBIR program is an extremely important one; it was CCAT's expectation that if through our leveraged funds, we would be able to assist the State to both ensure the continuation of this program as well as allow CII to find alternative uses for the approximately \$600,000 it currently spends to support it, we want to do so.



Connecticut Center for Advanced Technology, Inc.

222 Pitkin Street – Suite 101
East Hartford, CT 06108
Phone (860) 291-8832
Fax (860) 291-8874

The SBIR program is one with which we are very familiar. As I said, it was administered at CCAT for a number of years. Its purpose for existence fits within our current mission and vision. In addition, we are involved with this federal program as it relates to advanced technology activities for the Department of Defense. Currently small company recipients of SBIR grants are utilizing our Advanced Manufacturing Center, which includes an advanced laser application, advanced machining and modeling and simulation labs; and we have offered, where the technology is appropriate, to provide access at our expense to the hardware, software and personnel.

Very simply, the question is one of choice. CCAT is willing to offer its assistance if you so choose. If you wish to leave this program at CII, CCAT will continue to provide its current assistance to our state's manufacturing and entrepreneurial community through the application of advanced technology, as well as support to the present and future workforce in order to sustain and grow this important economic sector.

In closing, I want to take this opportunity to thank this committee for its continued support and recognition of CCAT and the programs we provide.